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OCT 17 2001

October 15, 2001

Via Facsimile: (202) 586-4403

Honorable Spencer Abraham  
U.S. Department of Energy  
1000 Independence Ave SW, Forrestal Bldg  
Washington, DC 20585

Dear Secretary Abraham:

I am writing to you to express my opinion that the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) should proceed with a recommendation to President George W. Bush that the Yucca Mountain site is suitable for the development of a geologic repository for spent nuclear fuel, high-level radioactive waste, and other materials.

The decision to proceed to the next step in the process to license, construct, operate and eventually decommission the proposed repository will provide significant nation-wide benefits by ensuring the continued operation of our nation's fleet of nuclear power plants. At the present time, 103 operating nuclear power plants supply approximately 20 percent of our nation's electricity and provide environmental benefits as well as electricity supply benefits. Nuclear energy is the world's largest source of emission-free energy. Nuclear power plants produce no controlled air pollutants, such as sulfur and particulates, or greenhouse gases. The use of nuclear energy in place of other energy sources helps to keep the air clean, preserve the Earth's climate, avoid ground-level ozone formation and prevent acid rain.

A decision on Yucca Mountain must be based on sound science. After more than 20 years of study, I believe that DOE has the scientific and technical information necessary for a decision to be made this year to proceed to the next step. There are no technical or scientific issues that should prevent Yucca Mountain from serving as a permanent repository.

I urge you to make used nuclear fuel disposal one of your highest priorities.

Sincerely,



David W. South  
Fairfax Station, Virginia

cc: Carol Hanlon, OCRWM, 1-800-967-0739